

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-09 EUR-12
FAA-00 IO-14 USIA-15 CCO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02
OC-06 PRS-01 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-05 WRD-01 MCT-01
/140 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVP:JSGRAVATT:SP

APPROVED BY EB/OA/AVP:AJWHITE

EUR (INFO)
NEA (INFO)
AF (INFO)
EA (INFO)
ARA (INFO)
FAA:VKROHN

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R 182145Z JUL 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, XX

SUBJECT: SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN HIJACK ATTEMPTS - 1ST
HALF OF 1977

1. FAA ISSUED FOLLOWING SECURITY SUMMARY ACS-77-21:

QUOTE: A QUICK REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF WORLDWIDE STATISTICS
FOR THE 1ST HALF OF 1977 REVEALS A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN
THE NUMBER OF AIR CARRIER HIJACK INCIDENTS. THE MAJORITY OF
ATTEMPTED HIJACKINGWERE AGAINST EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EAST
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AIR CARRIERS. IN GENERAL, THE PERPETRATORS WERE INDIVIDUALS
SEEKING POLITICAL ASYLUM, OR WERE MENTALLY UNBALANCED OR
SUICIDAL.

DURING THE 1ST HALF OF 1977, A TOTAL OF 16 HIJACKINGS WERE
ATTEMPTED, 7 OF WHICH WERE SUCCESSFUL, COMPARED TO A TOTAL
OF 18 HIJACK ATTEMPTS DURING ALL OF CY 1976, 7 OF WHICH WERE

SUCCESSFUL (3 ADDITIONAL HIJACK ATTEMPTS OCCURRED IN JULY 1977 TO DATE).

FURTHER, THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE INDICATES THAT THE MAJORITY OF HIJACKINGS DURING THE 1ST HALF OF 1977 INVOLVED

LONE HIJACKERS COMPARED TO HIJACKING BY GROUPS OF 2 TO 6 INDIVIDUALS WHICH HAS BEEN THE MODUS OPERANDI DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS.

REPORTEDLY, THE TYPE WEAPONS USED IN THE ATTEMPTED HIJACKING VARIED FROM A RIFLE TO HAND PISTOLS, ALLEGED HAND GRENADES, AND A KNIFE. IN SEVERAL INCIDENTS, TOY GUNS WERE USED. IT IS NOTED THAT TWO ATTEMPTS AGAINST U.S. CARRIERS WERE MADE WITHOUT ACTUAL WEAPONS.

IT APPEARS THAT MOST OF THE WEAPONS INVOLVED WERE INTRODUCED THROUGH THE COURSE OF PASSENGER BOARDING AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN DETECTED AND PREVENTED FROM BOARDING BY EFFECTIVE PASSENGER SCREENING AND CARRY-ON BAGGAGE PROCEDURES. THIS HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE AND ON-GOING SCREENING INCLUDING REEMPHASIS IN TRAINING AND CLOSER SUPERVISION OF SCREENING PERSONNEL. GENERALLY, TIGHTER APPLICATION OF SECURITY MEASURES SHOULD BE APPLIED BY AIR CARRIER AND AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL. IF THIS UPWARD TREND IS ALLOWED TO CONTINUE, THE NUMBER

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OF HIJACK ATTEMPTS FOR 1977 COULD REACH THE HIGH NUMBER OF HIJACKING ATTEMPTS EXPERIENCED DURING THE PEAK YEARS OF 1970-72 AND GREATLY ENDANGER THE LIVES AND SECURITY OF THE TRAVELLING PUBLIC, AIRLINE CREWS AND OTHER PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF FLIGHT. AIR CARRIER HIJACK ATTEMPTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN 1977 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DATE AIR CARRIER FLIGHT PLAN

JANUARY 11 TWA NY, NU/LONDON, ENGLAND
FEBRUARY 13 TURKISH AIRLINE ISTANBUL/IZMIR, TURKEY
FEBRUARY 14 IBERIA AIRLINE BARCELONA/PALMA DE

MARCH 17 ALL-NIPPON ARWYS CHITASE/SENDAI
MARCH 17 ALL-NIPPON ARWYS TOKYO/SENDAI
MARCH 19 TURKISH AIRLINE DIYARBAKIR/ANKARA
APRIL 24 LOT KRACOW/NUEREMBERG
APRIL 25 ETHIOPIAN AIRLINE MEKELE/GONDER

MAY 2 IBERIA AIRLINE MADRID/ROME
MAY 8 NWA TOKYO/HONOLULU

MAY 26 AEROFLOT DONETSK/RIGA
JUNE 6 MIDDLE EAST AIRLINE BEIRUT/BAGHDAD
JUNE 18 BULGARIAN AIRLINE VIDIN/SOFIA
JUNE 21 LAN-CHILE ANTOFAGASTA/SANTIAGO

JUNE 28 LUFTHANSA MUNICH/ISTANBUL
JUNE 29 GULF AIR LONDON/DUBAI
JULY 5 LEDECO AIRLINE ARICA /SANTIAGO

JULY 8 KUWAIT AIRLINE BEIRUT/KUWAIT
JULY 10 AEROFLOT PETROZAVODSK/LENINGRAD

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2. AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AND INTERNATIONAL
AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION HAVE BEEN REQUESTED TO PASS
THIS INFO TO SECURITY OFFICERS OF MEMBER AIRLINES. THIS
INFORMATION IS ALSO BEING PROVIDED FOR POSTS OWN
INFORMATION AND, UNLESS OBJECTION PERCEIVED, FOR
DISTRIBUTION TO HOST GOVERNMENTS' AUTHORITIES. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, DATA
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE167219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSGRAVATT:SP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770267-1122
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770746/aaaabnmg.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 007e1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1826370
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN HIJACK ATTEMPTS - 1ST HALF OF 1977
TAGS: EAIR, XX
To: ALL POSTS BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/007e1d68-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009